

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (cancelled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A quick connecting device for ducts in motor vehicles, comprising of:

a female member having first and second opposite ends, and an outer surface with first and second circumferential protrusions;

a male member having first and second opposite ends, and an outer surface with a circumferential groove, said male member being receivable in said female member at said first end of said female member without said first end of said female member covering said circumferential groove;

first and second sealing members disposed between said first and second circumferential protrusions, respectively, of said female member and said outer surface of said male member; and

a fastening member disposed around said female and male members so as to be in direct contact with the first circumferential protrusion of said female member and received in the

groove of said male member in a manner that compresses the first sealing member, the fastening member thereby holding said female and male members axially in place.

4. **(previously presented)** A quick connecting device according to claim 3, wherein said fastening member includes first and second substantially U-shaped coupling portions, one of said first and second coupling portions being received in said circumferential groove of said male member and the other of said coupling portions being fitted into the groove defined between the first and the second circumferential protrusions of the female member.

5. **(previously presented)** A quick connecting device according to claim 3, wherein said first and second sealing members are first and second gaskets, respectively.

6. **(previously presented)** A quick connecting device according to claim 3, wherein said fastening member is a fastening clip.

7. **(currently amended)** A quick connecting device for ducts in motor vehicles, comprising of:

a female member having first and second opposite ends, and an outer surface with first and second circumferential protrusions;

a male member having first and second opposite ends and an outer surface with a circumferential groove and an inclined surface ~~leading from the circumferential groove~~, said male member being receivable in said female member at said first end of said female member

with said first and second sealing members respectively disposed between said first and second protrusions of said female member and said outer surface of said male member, and said male member being receivable in said female member at said first end of said female member without said first end of said female member covering said circumferential groove;

~~first and second sealing members disposed between said first and second circumferential protrusions, respectively, of said female member and said outer surface of said male member,~~
said first sealing member being located on said inclined surface; and

a fastening member disposed around said female and male members so as to be in contact with the first circumferential protrusion of said female member and received in the groove of said male member in a manner that compresses the first sealing member, the fastening member thereby holding said female and male members axially in place.

8. (previously presented) A quick connecting device according to claim 7, wherein said fastening member includes first and second substantially U-shaped coupling portions, one of said first and second coupling portions being received in said circumferential groove of said male member and the other of said coupling portions being fitted into the groove defined between the first and the second circumferential protrusions of the female member.

9. (previously presented) A quick connecting device according to claim 7, wherein said first and second sealing members are first and second gaskets, respectively.

10. **(previously presented)** A quick connecting device according to claim 7, wherein said fastening member is a fastening clip.

11. **(previously presented)** A quick connecting device according to claim 7, wherein said first circumferential protrusion is of a larger diameter around the said female member than said second circumferential protrusion.